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fatigable exertions, and application to the drudgery of a school, he was never afterwards able to extricate himself. Soon after his last marriage, he took lodgings in Rathbone-place, Oxford-street, and served several Curacies in and about London. Here Captain and Mrs. Armstrong not only visited him frequently, but continued to live with him some time; and, in order to gratify their taste for amusements and dissipation, he was imprudently prevailed upon to plunge into all the expense of such a mode of life. Being at length, however, aware of his error, he retired to Chadwell, near Grays, in Essex, which Curacy he served for several years, and where two or three of his children were born. Yet here he was not able to retrench, or to live more economically, owing to the thoughtless extravagance already alluded to; and, as he perceived that he was involving himself in fresh difficulties, he came to the resolution of going to reside upon his small living of Caio, in Carmarthenshire, from which he had never received more than 130*l.*, after deducting his Curate's salary and all other expenses.

About this time, 1805, the Vicarage of Lampeter, in Cardiganshire, became vacant, to which he was presented by the present worthy and excellent Bishop of St. David's, and here he continued to reside until the time of his death; and it would be desirable, that some of his friends in that part of the Principality would supply you with an account of this latter period of his life. It is reported, that his pupils have it in contemplation to erect a monument to his memory; and it may be hoped, that this plan will soon be carried into execution.—A very handsome subscription has already been commenced for the relief of his children, who have been left in very distressed circumstances.

MARIDUNENSIS.

TOPOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

—000—

PARISH OF LLAN-SILIN, IN THE COUNTY OF DENBIGH.

[*Concluded.*]

§. 9. OWAIN GLYNDWR.—HIS CLAIM TO THE PRINCIPALITY.
—2. The second point to be discussed is the claim, that Owain Glyndwr had to the Principality of Wales, as being descended from its lawful and acknowledged Princes.

Dr. Powell says*, “ By these pedigrees it is evident that the title which Owain Glyndwr pretended to the Principality of Wales was altogether frivolous ; for he was not descended of the house of North Wales by his father, but of a younger brother of the house of Powys.” Again:—“ I know none, which are lawfully descended from Llywelyn ab Iorwerth, but such as are come out of the house of Mortimer ; in the which house, by order of descent, the right of the inheritance lieth.”

From such assertions as these Dr. Powell appears to have been a Vicar of *Bray*, as well as the Vicar of *Rhiw-Vabon*†. He might have known, that some of the oldest and best genealogists maintain, that Gruffydd, son of Llywelyn ab Iorwerth, was not base born, and that Davydd ab Llywelyn, his half brother, succeeded his father in the Principality, to the exclusion of Gruffydd, owing entirely to his superior interest with his uncle Henry III., king of England. Then, Gruffydd being legitimate, his son Llywelyn must have a claim paramount to that of the Mortimers descended from Gwladus, the sister of Gruffydd. Catherine, daughter of the last Llywelyn, by Eleanor, daughter of Simon de Montfort, married Philip ab Ivor, lord of Iscoed, in Cardigan-shire, and had issue Eleanor Goch, who married Tomas ab Llywelyn, a lineal descendant of Rhys ab Tewdwr, Prince of South Wales, and had issue Helen, who married Gruffydd Vychan, lord of Glyndyfrdwy and Cynllaith, who had issue, among others, Owain Glyndwr.

When Owain Tudur married Catherine, widow of Henry V., much declamation was used to vilify his descent. Even, in later times, Rapin says—“ It is pretended, that this gentleman was descended from the ancient kings of Wales ; but I do not know whether his extraction be well made out.” His translator, Tindal, adds—“ It is likewise said, that he was the son of a brewer.” To mend the matter a little, Tindal goes on—“ but the meanness of his extraction was made up by the delicacy of his person, being reckoned the handsomest man of his time ‡.” It seems, that these historians knew nothing of the commission issued by Henry VII., and directed to the Abbot of Llanegwest, Dr. Owen Pool, Canon of Hereford, and others, to search dili-

* Hist. of Wales, 1st edition, p. 318.

† Commonly pronounced and spelt Ruabon.—Ed.

‡ Edit. 8vo. 1729, vol. v. p. 206.

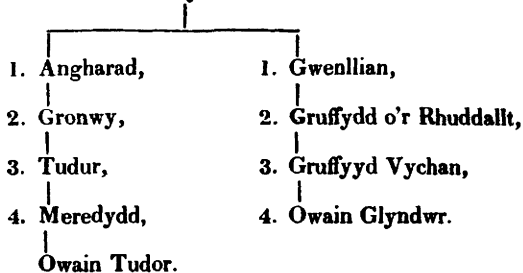
gently the archives of Wales, that he might know who his grandfather was. The commissioners made a full return, which has been published in an Appendix to Wynn's History of Wales: they did not find, it is true, that Owain Tudur was descended from the Great Mogul, or from the Khan of Tartary; but they found him of higher descent—from persons of the most exalted rank, princes and kings of their own country. A higher descent than this no son of Adam can boast.

What pedigrees were honourable to Owain Tudur were equally so to Owain Glyndwr; for they were near relations, as is apparent from the following sketches.

Edwin, the sixth among the fifteen tribes of Wales, was stiled prince or king of Englefield. He was great grandson of Hywel Dda, Prince of Wales, and had his residence at Llys Llan Eur-gain *, about the year 1041. From him descended Ithel Vychan, son of Ithel Llwyd.

I.

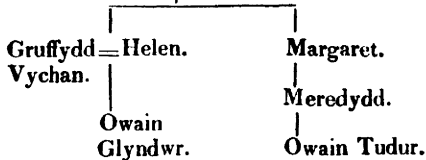
Ithel Vychan.



II.

Llywelyn ab Owain, descended from Rhys ab Tewdwr Mawr.

Tomas = Eleanor Goch, grand-daughter of Llywelyn,
Prince of Wales.



* Northop, in Flintshire.

III.

Three Royal Tribes centering in Owain Glyndwr.

1.	2.	3.
Bleddyn ab Cynvyn, of Powys.	Rhys ab Tewdwr, of S. Wales.	Gruffydd ab Cynan, of N. Wales.
Meredyd,	Gruffydd,	Owain Gwynedd,
Madog,	Arglwydd Rhys,	Iorwerth Drwyndwn,
Gruffydd Maelor,	Rhys Grŵg,	Llywelyn,
Madog,	Rhys Mechell,	Gruffydd ab Llywelyn
Gruffydd, dinas Bran,	Rhys Vychan, = Gwladus.	
Gruffydd Vychan,		
Madog Gloff, = Margaret.		
	Madog Vychan,	
	Gruffydd o'r Rhuddallt,	
	Gruffydd Vychan,	
	Owain Glyndwr.	

More might be added; but these three are enow. Though Glyndwr descended maternally from the Princes of North and South Wales; yet, as the Salic law was never acknowledged in Britain, his natural right to the Principality was valid, in default of superior claims by collateral descendants in the male line.

3. We come now to the third point to be discussed, the location of the "Sycharth, buarth y Beirdd," of Iolo Goch; which undoubtedly was a mansion of Owain Glyndwr. Mr. Pennant, in the Index to his *Tour of Wales*, has "Sycharth, the seat of Owain Glyndwr;" and, in following his reference to the page, we find him describing it as situate in the valley of the Dee, three miles below Corwen; and he makes no hesitation in concluding, that there the spirited chieftain was visited by his devoted bard.

In the year 1792 I had the curiosity to visit this spot in Glyn-dyfrdwy, and also another place called, and universally known by the name of, Sycharth, in this parish of Silin: and, when I returned to Mr. Pennant's volume, I entered in the margin,

opposite the name Sycharth—"Sycharth, the seat of Owain Glyndwr, described by Iolo Goch, in his Invitation Poem, is in the parish of Llan-Silin, about twelve miles to the south by east of Glyndyfrdwy;"—and I am still more and more confirmed in this opinion.

However, to bring this point to an issue, let us appeal to the written testimony of the 14th century, which is to be found in the poem by Iolo Goch. This visit by the bard was several years before the insurrection of 1400, as Glyndwr's children are described, in the Invitation Poem, as infants and half-grown, introduced in pairs, by their mother, to the venerable stranger; whereas, during the conflict, which commenced in 1400, some of the daughters were married, and the sons were of age and courage to take the field, and to fall, in their father's cause.

Let us examine the Invitation Poem, &c. part by part.—

1. The name of the mansion:—In one poem the place is called "Sycharth, buarth y beirdd."—*i. e.* "Sycharth, where bards throng." In the poem in question occurs—"Na syched fyth yn Sycharth:"—*i. e.* "Thirst is a privation unknown in Sycharth." As Owain was baron of two lordships, no one will deny his having a seat in each; one on the Dee in Glyndyfrdwy, the other on the Cynllaith in this parish. The only question to be decided is—in which of the two mansions the chieftain resided, when he was visited by the veteran bard, who wrote the poem, so fully descriptive of the house and its appendages. The scite of his seat in Llan-Silin has been called Sycharth time out of mind, and is not now known by any other name. The whole township is called Sycharth, in every court-leet, and in every parochial document. The scite of his residence in Glyndyfrdwy, or the moat surrounding it, is called Pwll Eingl*. Since the publication of Mr. Pennant's Tour of Wales, and the Poem by Mr. Rhys Jones, both in the year 1773, the idea may have been considerably circulated, that this spot at Pwll Eingl must have been the Sycharth described by Iolo Goch; as it was never suspected, not even by the eagle-eyed and correct Mr. Pennant, that the illustrious chieftain had any other baronial mansion than that in the valley, which gave him his surname of Glyndyfrdwy, and contractedly Glyndwr.

2. "Tŷ pren glân, yn nhop bryn glâs."

"A fair house of wood, on the summit of a green hillock."

* I am obliged to the Rev. Mr. Beans, who resides near the spot, for much information on the subject under discussion.

At both places the scite is surrounded by a moat. On the Dee the area, enclosed by it, is forty-six paces by twenty-six: "it is not on a tumulus, but the ground is a little raised." At Sycharth the scite is a circle of thirty paces diameter; on the summit of an artificial tumulus, which is surrounded by the moat, six yards wide, and about the same in depth from the top of the mound. To the west, bordering on the moat, is a *propugnaculum* in the form of a *lunette*, about three hundred paces from point to point, and about thirty over, for the purpose of defending the bridge over the moat, when necessary: the whole on the summit of a natural round hillock, shelving on all sides. The bard has been very particular in describing the plan of the house, and its outbuildings, chapel, dove-house, &c. A person, well acquainted with the varieties of ancient architecture, might favour the readers of the CAMBRO-BRITON with an ichnography and elevation of the mansion, from the helps afforded by the bard in this poem.

3. "Gerllaw 'r llys ———"

Pawr ceirw mewn parc arall."

"The deer graze in another park, adjoining the palace."

"On the Dee, adjoining the scite of the palace, are two inclosures; one is called Parc Isa, the other, Parc. The Parc Isa is small, but the other Parc is from seventy to eighty acres."

In Cynllaith, the next house to Sycharth, on the south-east, is a place called Parc Sycharth, with a farm attached to it. This is at the southern end of an extensive wood, which occupies the escarpment of a rocky hill, also called Parc Sycharth, and may have been the Parc Cwning (the rabbit warren) of the bard. At the northern end of the same wood are a few houses called Pentre y Cwn, where the master of the buck-hounds to his barony and his assistants resided.

4. "Melin deg, ar ddifreg ddŵr."

"A fair mill on a perennial stream."

There are no vestiges of such an appendage on the Dee. At Sycharth there is, on the perennial rivulet Cynllaith, close at the foot of the hillock, whereon the palace stood, a mill, formerly called Melin Sycharth; but owing to the grist-mill being lately converted into a fulling-mill, it is now called Pandy Sycharth.

5. "Pysgodlyn."

A fo rhaid i fwrw rhwydau."

"A fish-pond to cast nets into."

"On the Dee, there are no traces of fish-ponds." At Sycharth, between the palace and the wood (the "parc cwning") the ichnography of two fish-ponds, one above the other, is still visible; though now much filled with an accumulation, in a state of transition from aquatic vegetables into an imperfect peat. This matter is several feet deep on the original base of the ponds. The water could not be very abundant; and what formerly supplied the ponds has now been diverted into other channels, by the operation of draining. The fish, which stocked the ponds, the bard informs us, were pike and whiting; each species probably separate, the whiting, says Mr. Pennant, from Bala Lake.

6. "Dŵyn blaenfirwyth cwrw Amwythig."

Among a variety of beverages enumerated by the bard, "Shrewsbury Ale" is included. That town, in former times, was much commended for its excellent mode of brewing. Even now its malt is in request in distant parts—"o Lundain i lyn Cawellyn." *Cwrw Amwythig* could be conveyed with greater facility to Sycharth than to Glyndyfrdwy. At the latter mansion the bard would have had occasion, probably, to chaunt the encomium of *Cwrw Caer Llcon* *.

I trust, that it will now be conceded by our neighbours on the banks of the Dee, that Owain Glyndwr was, at least, an inhabitant of Cynllaith; especially at the time he was visited by the celebrated bard Iolo Goch, who in after times, by his war-songs, roused the hero and his countrymen to arms.

A glossary on these war-songs, by Iolo and others, would be curious and interesting; and, for want of such a key, many passages in them are dark and inexplicable.

How long his mansions stood, at Glyndyfrdwy and Cynllaith, after the fall of their owner, is not now known. As they were of timber, and not inhabited, they must soon have fallen to decay. There are now no vestiges at either place. The scite at Sycharth has of late been ploughed many times, without having any relics discovered. A few nails, and fragments of stones, bearing the

* But perhaps I may be mistaken on this point, as Chester Ale was not famous in former days. Hear a good judge on the subject:—

"Naws *eidral* † meddal, yn meddwi—*Saison*

Naws eisin a bryntni;

Naws tair afon is trefi,

Naws *cwrw Caer*—ni's câr ci!"

Sion Tudur, 1570.

† Ground-ivy.

marks of ignition, are the only remains that I saw. It is not probable, that the house was burned, as the ploughed soil contains no fragments of charcoal.

Glyndwr's first act of open hostility was on the 20th of September 1400, when he sacked and burned the town of Ruthin. Henry IV., on the 8th of November following, escheated all his estates in Wales, and made a grant of them to his own brother, John, Earl of Somerset *. Glyndwr, at this time, thought such a grant as preposterous as if his Majesty had granted his brother an estate in the moon. However, the predictions of the bards deceived, and fortune at length forsook, our hero. His possessions for a time continued in the hands of the Somersets. Thirty-three years after the grant was made in their favour, in the 11th of Henry VI., Sir John Scudamore, of Kent-Church, Knight, in right of Alicia his wife, daughter and heir of Owain Glyndwr, brought an action at law for the recovery of the manors of Glyndyfrdwy and Cynllaith, which was opposed by the Earl of Somerset, son of the grantee, then a prisoner in France *, and,

* Rymer's *Fœdera*, viii. 163.

* This Earl of Somerset had been taken prisoner by the Earl of Buchan at the unfortunate action at Beaugé, in France, 3d of April, 1421; and was not released till the year 1433, when he was exchanged for the Earl of Eu, of the house of Artois, who had been a prisoner in England since the battle of Agincourt, in 1415. Among the slain at Baugé, on the side of the English, were the Duke of Clarence, brother to Henry the 5th, the Earl of Kent, the Lord Ross, and the Lord Grey of Powys. There is extant, in MS., a well written Elegy, in Welsh, on the death of this Lord of Powys, by an anonymous bard. The poem begins—

“ Gwae wlad oer, gwilio derwen,
Darffo i wynt dori 'i phen !” &c.

I should be obliged to some brother correspondent for the name of the author, who must have been either one of the cavalry at the battle of Baugé, or present at the funeral of Lord Grey at Welshpool; for he says—

“ Och ban fum uwch ben ei fedd,
Rhoi fy nbroed ar f'anthydded !”

As the Earl of Salisbury came up in time to rescue the body of the Duke of Clarence from the Scots, which he sent to the King his brother in England, it is possible that the body of the Lord Grey might have been sent at the same time, to be entombed at Welshpool; and the bard seems to insinuate as much, when he mentions his lady's distress upon the occasion, who was Juan, daughter and co-heiress of the last of the Charltons of Powys.

Iarlles fro Went, ar llys fraith,
Ac mor wan—a'i marw unwaith;
Arloës floedd, a'r llais flwng,
Hyd trwy allor y Trallwng.

It seems by this, that the Lord Grey was buried in the chancel of Pool Church.

as might be expected, considering the quality and circumstances of the respective parties, with success.

The Duke of Somerset was attainted the 1st of Edward IV., in 1461—pardoned in 1462—and, for joining Margaret the Queen of Henry VI., beheaded in 1463. Edmund his brother, then Duke of Somerset, fled beyond the seas. In the same year, Edward IV., having in vain offered a pardon to all the friends of the house of Lancaster, who would make their submission, and swear allegiance to him by a given time, confiscated their estates. It was at this time, most probably, that the possessions of Owain Glyndwr, hitherto in the hands of the Somersets, were alienated,—the Lordship of Cynllaith Owain, in this parish, to the owner of the Llangedwyn estate, now the property of Sir W. W. Wynn, Bart.; and the Lordship of Glyndyfrdwy to Robert Salisbury, Esq. of Rûg,—and from him, and the succeeding Salisburys—the Pughes of Mathafarn in Montgomeryshire—the Pryces of Gogerddan in Cardiganshire—to the present Lord of Glyndyfrdwy, Gruffydd Hywel Vychan, Esq. of Rûg. Mr. Yorke, in his *Royal Tribes*, p. 64, may have been mistaken in saying, that these lordships were sold by Henry IV., as, for the reasons above given, it is more apparent, that they were disposed of by Edward IV. in the confiscation of the Somerset possessions in 1463.

Omitting, for the present, any further anecdotes relative to our parishioner Glyndwr—the modes of incitement made use of by the bards to rouse their “*Mab y Darogan*” to action—and to prevail upon him to continue the struggle for national liberty, even when but faint hopes of success remained—

“*Na weinia gledd—Owain y Glyn,*” &c.

I shall conclude this account of him, and of the parish where he occasionally resided, with only noticing the discrepancies of writers respecting the time of his death, some dating it earlier, others later. Rapin says, “It is certain that he lived till the year 1417.” We must prefer Welsh authority upon this point; which is, that he sunk under a pressure of anxiety and disappointment at the house of one of his two daughters, Scudamore or Monington, in Herefordshire, on the eve of St. Mathew, Sept. 20, 1415. A Welsh *Englyn* preserves the year of his rising, as well as the year of his death, without scarcely a possibility of mistake, thus—

Mil, a phedwar-cant, nid mwy—cof ydyw
Cyfodiad Glyndyfrdwy;
A phymtheg, praff ei saffwy,
Bu Owain hen byw yn hwy.

APPENDIX A.

Some Memoranda of the Civil War in North Wales, written at the time, by Mr. Wm. Maurice, of Llan-Silin, extracted from the Wynnstay Manuscripts.

1644.

Nov. 29. "The Parlm^r burnt Mathavarn, in Motntg^r, and made that part of the country conformable to the rest.

1645.

Aug. 2.—"The Montgomeryshire forces invaded Meirionydd-shyre, and lay for a time at Dolgelle. The same day the King's forces burnt Ynys y Maengwyn lest the Parlm should find any harbour there.

"The same day E. V. fortified a new garrison * at Aber Marchand.

Aug. 21. "The Montgom forces invaded again Meirionydd-shyre, and lay for a week at Bala, until they were driven out of the country by Sir John Owen and the North Wales men.

"In this voyage the Parlm burnt Caer Gai †.

Sept. 21. "The King passed through Mountgomeryshire, and lay that night at Llan Fyllin. The next day, the 22d Sept., the King marched from Llan Fyllin by Brithdir, where he dined, and gave proclamation among his soldiers, that they should not plunder any thing in Denbysshire, and thence through Mochnant to Cevn hir Fynydd, and so along the tops of the mountains to Chirk Castle. The rest of the forces marched to Llan-Silin. The next day after, being Tuesday, the King advanced towards Chester.

Sept. 24. "Being Wednesday, the King's forces were routed by the Parlm^r army in a place called Rowton Moor.

"From Chester the King retreated to Denbigh Castle, and, having layed there two or three nights, returned to Chirk Castle. The next morning, viz. 29thbris, he advanced from thence with his army through Llan-Silin, and quartered that night in Halchdyn ‡, and so passed through Mountgomeryshire towards Ludlow.

* The house, then fortified, is still called by the name of *Y Garris*; it is in the parish of Llanwddlyn, opposite Cynon isa.

† Caer Gai, supposed to have been a Roman station, was at this time the seat of Rowland Vychan, Esq. a staunch loyalist, who suffered much in the royal cause.—See CAMBRO-BRITON, No. 6, p. 231, Note.—Ed.

‡ Halchdyn is in Donddar, between the rivets Havren and Vyrnwy, and near Maudrinie. The name of the place has been anglicised into Houghton.

1646

Feb. 23. "The Montgomeryshire forces began to fortifie Llan-Silin Church for the straightninge and keepinge in of Chirk Castle men, where Sir John Watts was Govnoure; who, shortly after, deserting the Castle, and marchinge towards the King's army with all his garrison, were taken by the men of Montgomery Castle after a hotte bickeringe in Church Stoke Church, the first day of Marche, 1646."

IDRIS.

THE MISCELLANIST.—No. VI.

It may be proper to mention, that the following picturesque description of the practice of burning the furze and heath on the Welsh mountains forms part of a work, designed for publication, as before noticed in the CAMBRO-BRITON*, under the title of "CAMBRIAN SKETCHES," and to the writer of which the "Sketches of Society" and the "Miscellanist" have been indebted for many interesting contributions.

* *

FURZE-FIRING.

The fire, when kindled by our shepherds, moves
Through the dry heath, before the fanning wind.

DOUGLAS.

It is customary in Merionethshire, as it is in other parts of the kingdom, to remove, at a certain season of the year, the furze and stunted heath, with which the hills are so plenteously covered, in order to provide for the cattle a more salutary and acceptable winter pasture. Their removal is effected by fire, and in Wales the season for consuming them is generally about November or December. It is by no means a custom of modern date, nor is its use peculiar to our country; for we find that it is practised in Italy, and precisely under similar circumstances. "They still use the method of burning the stubble" (we are informed), "especially in the more barren fields, in most parts of Italy, and about Rome in particular, where there is so much bad ground †." It is evident that the Italians inherit this custom from their ancestors, the Romans; and it is perhaps equally clear,

* No. 7, p. 279.

† Holdsworth, Author of the *Mucropula*.